

MINUTES of the MEETING of the
SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
held at the Civic Offices, Civic Way, Swadlincote
on Wednesday 26th February 2020
at 6.00pm

PRESENT:

Conservative Group

Councillor Muller (Chairman), Councillor Atkin (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Angliss, Billings, Mrs Brown, Brady, Mrs Bridgen, Corbin, Dawson, Fitzpatrick, Ford, Mrs Haines, Hewlett, MacPherson, Pegg, Roberts, Watson and Wheelton.

Labour Group

Councillors Bambrick, Dunn, Mrs Heath, Mulgrew, Rhind, Richards, Shepherd, Southerd, Taylor, and Tilley.

CL/113 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillors Churchill, and Mrs Patten (Conservative Group), Councillor Gee, Dr Pearson, Dr Perry, Singh, and Mrs. Stuart (Labour Group)

CL/114 **PRESENTATION: KOICHIRO KUNO**

The Chief Executive welcomed Koichiro Kuno who was attending Council prior to his return to Japan. The Chief Executive expressed his appreciation of the chance to host the visit from Koichiro Kuno, who arrived 3 years ago as an esteemed visitor and was leaving as a very good friend of South Derbyshire.

Koichiro Kuno thanked Members and Officers for their warm welcome and continued support during his visit, he added that his time in South Derbyshire has been absolutely fantastic and a priceless experience. He informed Members that he had found invaluable the numerous events that had been organised during his stay and that South Derbyshire's visit to Japan was a great success. In closing, Koichiro Kuno noted that he was looking forward to sharing all his experiences with this friends and colleagues back in Japan.

The Leader wished Koichiro Kuno well on behalf of the Council and asked for thanks to be passed to all in Japan for looking after Members and Officers so well during the visit.

CL/115

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

On behalf of all Members, the Chairman declared a pecuniary interest in relation to Item 11, Council Tax Setting 2020/21, in accordance with Clause 14(4)(vi) of the Members' Code of Conduct.

Councillor Ford declared a personal interest in Item 7, Care Leaver Offer, by virtue of being a County Councillor, advising he would not participate in the debate.

Councillor Atkin declared a personal interest in Item 7, Care Leaver Offer, by virtue of being a County Councillor, advising he would not participate in the debate.

Councillor Bambrick, declared a personal interest in Item 7, Care Leaver Offer, by virtue of being a County Councillor, advising he would not participate in the debate.

CL/116 **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman of the Council outlined a summary of events attended since the last Council Meeting; including: The unveiling of the Holocaust Commemoration Banner in remembrance of those that lost their lives, as well as the Pringle Academy 2020 Awards for years 11 and 12, and the Rainbows Hospice Charity Dinner. The Chairman invited Members to support the upcoming 'Strictly over the Rainbow' event, in which he himself would be a contestant.

CL/117 **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LEADER**

The Leader thanked all members of staff who worked hard during the time of recent floods.

CL/118 **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE**

The Chief Executive reminded Members of the need to respond to the email from the Head of Legal and Democratic Services regarding the up and coming Independent Remuneration Panel. The Chief Executive advised Council that there was due to be a press release on Friday 28th February 2020 from Government regarding funding for flood victims of the recent storms and also informed Council of the opening of the 15 affordable new homes built on the site of the former Swadlincote Garage, Hill Street by the Chairman at 2pm on Friday 28th February 2020.

CL/119 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 10**

Council were informed that no questions had been received.

CL/120 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 11**

Council were informed that no questions had been received.

CL/121 **CARE LEAVER OFFER**

The Sport and Health Partnership Manager presented the report to Council outlining the four key areas of the Care Leaver Offer

The Leader supported the report and recommended it for Council approval

RESOLVED:

1.1 Council endorsed the corporate parenting principles enshrined in the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

1.2 Council approved the Care Leaver Offer outlined within the report.

1.3 Council approved Officers to seek further additionality to the offer and to work with partner organisations to expand the offer locally.

1.4 Council approved the request from Derbyshire County Council (DCC) to support the promotion and recruitment of Foster Families across the District.

1.5 Council agreed further work with partners to develop and sign a care leavers covenant.

CL/122 **NON-STRUCTURAL REFORM**

The Chief Executive presented the report to Council providing an update on the collaborative work currently taking place between Derbyshire Councils and outlined the need for South Derbyshire District Council's participation and financial input into Phase 2. The Chief Executive reassured Council that South Derbyshire District Council would maintain its identity and would only collaboratively in those areas where it would be beneficial to work together.

Councillors enquired if the amount that the Council is investing will increase if any other Councils withdraw. The Chief Executive informed Council that this would not be the case and that the same Report is being delivered by 8 other Derbyshire Chief Executives for approval and all are committed to this.

RESOLVED:

1.1 Council noted the progress on the development of a new Vision for Derbyshire and work to take forward non-structural reform.

1.2 Council noted the principles for collaboration, the areas of potential focus for future working and the next steps.

- 1.3 Council considered the Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC) proposals for Phase 2 and the approach for taking plans forward and sharing identified costs as set out in this report.**
- 1.4 Council approved active participation in Phase 2 and the associated costs of supporting PWC proposals.**

CL/123 **COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME REGULATIONS 2020**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report for Council advising that it had been considered, in detail, by Finance and Management Committee.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 Council agreed Under Section 10 of the Local Government Finance Act 2012, a Local Council Tax Support Scheme for South Derbyshire be adopted for the financial year commencing 1 April 2020.**
- 1.2 Council approved regulations and cited as the Council Tax Reduction Scheme Regulations (South Derbyshire District Council Local Scheme 2020) and come into force on 27 February 2020.**
- 1.3 It be noted that these regulations amend the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013, as amended, set out in the Schedule to those Regulations for the purposes of paragraph 4 of Schedule 1A to the Local Government Finance Act 1992, by:**
 - Continuing the insertion of Section 18a Class G: exempt persons who are not pensioners.**
 - Continuing the insertion of Section 18b Class H: persons who are not pensioners.**
 - Continuing the amendment to Regulation 32 to vary the maximum entitlement in prescribed cases, i.e. to give effect to the designation of war pensioners and the disabled as protected groups (in addition to pensioners under the Prescribed Requirements) and to reduce benefit entitlement in non-protected groups by 8.5% for persons on passported benefit and by 10% in all other cases.**
 - Continuing the amendment to Schedule 8 (20) to ensure the disregard of war pensions, to include other payments made under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme.**
 - Continuing the insertion at Part 12 Chapter 6 the provision to increase the period of extended payments (as defined in the Regulations) from 4 to 8 weeks.**

1.4 Council agreed that the amounts of pensions, tax credits, income related and non-income related social security benefits and allowances, component parts, applicable amounts, premiums and deductions be uprated in accordance with the 2013 Regulations in 1.3 above as set out in Housing Benefit Circular HB A1/2020

CL/124 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2020/21**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to Council, outlining the Council's 3 strategies and advised that it had been considered, in detail, by Finance and Management Committee.

RESOLVED:

1.1 Council approved the Treasury Management Strategy for 2020/21.

1.2 Council approved the Prudential Indicators and Limits for 2020/21 to 2024/25.

1.3 Council approved the Investment Policy for 2020/21 including the associated counterparty (lending) list.

CL/125 **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECTION 151 OFFICER**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to Council, highlighting the Council's current position and its financial sustainability based on projected resources available. The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) informed Council that there will be update reports throughout the coming year.

RESOLVED:

1.1 Council considered and noted the Annual Report of the Section 151 Officer

1.2 The Council agreed to have due regard to the Annual Report when approving the Budget for 2020/21 and when considering future proposals for new spending and the utilisation of resources.

CL/126 **COUNCIL TAX SETTING 2020/21**

The Leader moved the resolutions contained in the report, commenting on the Council's budget, its financial position and the proposed level of Council Tax

for 2020/21. The Leader added that the report made it clear where the rise comes from and that it is recognised that the County of South Derbyshire is one of the best places in the Country to live and residents will benefit from the Council Tax rise.

Councillor Richards stated that that whilst the figures in the report are open and transparent it means that the hard-pressed residents of South Derbyshire will be hit by another increase in Council Tax and as the Labour Manifesto proposed a freeze on Council Tax increase the Labour Group would not support the report's recommendations.

RESOLVED:

- 1. It be noted that on 9th January 2020, the Finance and Management Committee calculated the Council Tax Base 2020/21:***

(a) For the whole area as 34,474 (Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by the Localism Act 2011).

(b) For dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish Precept relates as 23,536.

- 2. Calculate that the Council Tax Requirement for the Council's own purpose for 2020/21 (excluding Parish Precepts) is £5,704,758.***

- 3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2020/21 in accordance with Sections 31 and 36 of the Localism Act 2011:***

(a) £45,295,904

Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.

(b) £38,743,121

Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act.

(c) £6,552,783

Being the amount by which the aggregate of 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate of 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A (4) of the Act as its Council

Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).

(d) £190.08

Being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R) all divided by Item T (1a above) calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish Precepts).

(e) £848,025

Being the aggregate amount of all Parish Precepts referred to in Section 34 (1) of the Act.

(f) £165.48

Being the amount at 3 (d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3 (e) above by Item T (1a above) calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 34 (2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish Precept relates.

- 4. To note that Parish Councils have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 41 of Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in Schedule A***
- 5. To note that the County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Fire and Rescue Service for Derbyshire, have issued Precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in Schedule B.***
- 6. That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in Schedule C, as the amounts of Council Tax for 2020/21 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings, this being the aggregate of Schedules A and B.***
- 7. That in accordance with Section 52 (ZB) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Council determines that the amount of council tax shown at 3 (f) of £165.48 is not excessive compared to 2019/20 and therefore there is no requirement for a local referendum.***

As required by the Council's Procedure Rules a recorded vote was taken:

The Members who voted for the resolutions were:

Councillors Atkin, Angliss, Billings, Brady, Mrs Bridgen, Mrs Brown, Corbin, Dawson, Fitzpatrick, Ford, Mrs Haines, Hewlett, MacPherson, Muller, Pegg, Roberts, Watson and Mrs Wheelton

The Members who voted against the above resolutions were:

Councillors Bambrick, Dunn, Mrs Heath, Mulgrew, Rhind, Richards, Shepherd, Southerd, Taylor, and Tilley

CL/127 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT [ACCESS TO INFORMATION] ACT 1985)**

RESOLVED:-

That in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the Meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined under the paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act as indicated in the reports of Committees.

EXEMPT QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NUMBER 11

Council was informed that no questions had been received.

The meeting terminated at 7.10 pm.

COUNCILLOR D MULLER

CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL